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able as a text-book for boys and girls. We hope to see it introduced into every school in the country, for sooner or later zoölogy will have to be taught in all our common schools, at least so much of it as to cause children to collect and observe the common animals they meet with in their daily walks. An excellent feature of this book is that the child is led to examine the object and compare it with others, and is then stimulated to see how it acts, thus unconsciously getting some glimpses at least of the principles of morphology and physiology. The objects are called by their common names. The author has had the good sense to omit the scientific names, thus rendering the book vastly more attractive and useful. Many readers are anxious to first learn the Latin names, and are too often content to stop here. The scientific name is the thing of least importance. The author well illustrates, in the preface, the difficulty and mental confusion resulting from the present state of zoölogical nomenclature, the bane or necessary evil of the study of biology.

THE MOVEMENTS AND HABITS OF CLIMBING PLANTS.[1] — We wish to refer our readers to a review of this book, and of Mr. Darwin's treatise on Insectivorous Plants, in recent numbers of the *Nation*. Our readers will recognize in the review the thorough analysis and clear statement which characterize Professor Gray's criticisms. It may be well to add to the review a single statement which is based on the opening sentences of Climbing Plants; namely, that Mr. Darwin had his attention first called to the subject several years ago, by a short paper by Professor Gray on the movement of certain tendrils.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne. By Gilbert White. With Notes, by Frank Buckland; a Chapter on Antiquities, by Lord Selborne; and New Letters. Illustrated by P. H. Delamote. London: Macmillan & Co. 1875. 8vo, pp. 591. $12.00.

Norse Mythology; or the Religion of our Forefathers. Containing all the Myths of the Eddas, systematized and interpreted. With an Introduction, Vocabulary, and Index. By R. B. Anderson. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. 1875. 12mo, pp. 473. $2.50.

Principal Characters of the Dinocerata. Part I. By Prof. O. C. Marsh. With six plates. (From the American Journal of Science and Arts, February, 1876.) 8vo, pp. 6.

The Microscopical Examination of Crude Drugs and other Vegetable Products. By Prof. M. W. Harrington. Ann Arbor, Mich. 8vo, pp. 34.

Fresh-Water Shell-Mounds of St. John's River, Florida. By Jeffries Wyman. (Peabody Academy of Science, Fourth Memoir.) Salem, Mass. 1875. Royal 8vo, with nine plates, pp. 94. $2.00. For sale by the Naturalist's Agency.

Harbors of Alaska, and the Tides and Currents in their Vicinity By W. H. Dall. Appendix Coast Survey Report. Washington, D. C. No. 10. 4to, pp. 36. With a sketch.

Report of Geographical and Hydrographical Explorations on the Coast of Alaska By W. H. Dall. U. S. Coast Survey. Appendix No. 11. Washington, D. C. 4to, pp. 12. With a map.

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[1] *The Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants.* By CHARLES DARWIN. London: John Murray. 1875.

Report on Mt. St. Elias. By W. H. Dall. (From the U. S. Coast Survey Report for 1875.) With a map and sketches. Washington, D. C. July, 1875. 4to, pp. 32.

Notes on the Yucca Borer (*Megathymus yuccæ*). By C. V. Riley. (Trans. Acad. Sciences, St. Louis, January, 1876.) St Louis. 1876. 8vo, pp. 23. With cuts.

Note sur les Mollusques de la Formation Post-Pliocène de l'Acadie. Par G. F. Matthew. Bruxelles. 1875. 8vo, pp. 19.

On the Surface Geology of New Brunswick. By G. F. Matthew. (Canadian Naturalist, vii., No. 8.)

Remarks on the Variation in Form of the Family Strepomatidæ. With Descriptions of New Species. By A. G. Wetherby. Cincinnati. 1875. 8vo, pp. 12. With a plate.

Descriptive Catalogues of the Photographs of the United States Geological Survey of the Territories for the Years 1869 to 1875 inclusive. Second Edition. W. H. Jackson, photographer. Washington, D. C. 1875. 8vo, pp. 81.

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GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.[1]

Astragalus Robbinsii Gray. — As some botanists seem to suppose this plant extinct, it may be of interest to them to know that the station has never been lost, and that at any time since Oakes used to collect it until now, fine specimens have been easily obtained. It is abundant over the very limited area where it grows, and has never been found anywhere else, I believe. Few plants are so exceedingly restricted in their range, for its habitat consists only of a space about five hundred feet long and from fifty to one hundred feet wide. This is on one bank of the Winooski River, near Burlington, where the limestone ledges are overflowed by every freshet. This limestone is very hard and compact, and full of crevices which are filled with sand mixed with a little mold. In these crevices, or less often in hollows that have been filled with earth, the astragalus grows, sending its roots from six inches to a foot or even more down into the crevice. It does not, so far as I have noticed, ever grow higher on the bank of the river than the spring floods reach, nor away from the exposed limestone rock. *Potentilla fruticosa* is found abundantly in the same location, and less abundantly *Anemone multifida* and *Campanula rotundifolia*, and also several less numerous species of *Compositæ*, *Salix*, etc. — G. H. Perkins.

The Potato-Blight. — A very important step has recently been made in our knowledge of the history of this disease. It is about thirty years since it was first clearly traced by M. Montagne in France, and the Rev. M. J. Berkeley in England, to a parasitic fungus, *Botrytis* or *Peronospora infestans*, which first attacks the haulms and leaves, and eventually causes the decay of the tubers. Two modes of asexual reproduction, by means of "simple spores" or conidia, and actively moving swarmspores or zoöspores which penetrate the stomata of the host, have

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[1] Conducted by Prof. G. L. Goodale.